

Dear Commerce Committee,

Please vote **NO** on HB5263.

This bill would allow the processing of thousands of rabbits for food consumption.

1- Rabbits are the third most common household pet after dogs and cats

2- Due to public pressure, Petco and PetSmart stopped selling pet rabbits.

They now only display rescue rabbits for adoption – the same treatment they give to dogs and cats.

3-Whole Foods and other specialty stores stopped selling rabbit meat after concluding there was no market for sales.

4-The multi-billion-dollar cosmetic industry has been moving away from using rabbits and other animals in their testing programs due to consumer pressure.

5-While the rest of the country has recognized and elevated rabbits as pets, CT is taking a step backward in proposing this initiative.

Please do not move the State of CT backwards with this proposed bill. Please consider the lives of these innocent rabbits. I am truly appalled at HB5263 and I ask that you vote NO to the bill. Factory farming is CRUEL and the slaughtering of thousands of rabbits is deeply disturbing and unnecessary.

Respectfully,

Ashley Chandler